



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB)

Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring, MD

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| Call to Order: | Francisco Romero, Chair | | | Respectfully Submitted by: Oriole Saah, Secretary | | |
| Date/Time: | May 21, 2018; 7:00 PM ET | | | | | |
| Attendees: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Adjogah, Mensah | | vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Shoenberg, Robert (Parliamentarian) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lynda Brooks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Romero, Francisco (Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Solomon, Jobe |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Frank, Ron (Vice Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rowden, David | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tankersley, Judy |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Gelman, Michael | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Saah, Oriole (Secretary) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Wright, Ursula |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mozzano, Louis | | vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Partap Verma |
| Staff: | Luisa Montero, Director, Mid-County Regional Services Center | | | | | |
| Guests: | Justin Chapel, Democratic Committee Candidate Lt. Oneil Ormsby, MPD | | | | | |

Call to Order: 7:05 PM by Francisco Romero, Chair

Introductions

Agenda – Approved unanimously. Note: standard order of the agenda flipped to accommodate guest speaker.

Minutes – Approved as amended

Council Report – None.

District 4 Police Update – Lt. Ormsby in replacing Lt. Dillman, who moved to Special Teams.

- Crime is down across the board. Auto theft and theft from autos are down.
- Bank robbery – shared suspect photo, at least two robberies at the same location
- Fatal accident at Viers Mill & Robindale, car turned left in front of oncoming motorcyclist. Still under investigation.
- Brookville murder/suicide – family member left own house, went to neighbor's and suspect followed. Neighbor and two others killed. Police located suspect. Suspect deceased but police force was not involved.

Q: Observed high number of promotions from 4th district. Is this unusual?

A: The lieutenant position is often a revolving door but the commander generally stays for an average of five years. District 4 has most officers of all of Montgomery County's districts.

Q: What was happening at Wood Middle School? Active shooter drill at change of classes or lunch?

A: Not familiar with call. Group discussed active shooter drills and school safety measures. Officers are taking the time to get to know the schools.



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Q: What is the 11000 block of Viers Mill Road?

A: Wheaton Plaza

Q: Why is there always a heavy presence of police at Aspen Hill Shopping Center?

A: Location with a high volume of calls for service. Some officers serve as private security. And a location many go for meals.

Q: What is the status of MS13 in the mid county area?

A: Gangs are a youth activity. Most grow out of it. Some kids see groups as cool. Most crime is gang-on-gang. This is one area where the SRO program is very important.

Q: Trend in gang activity, up or down?

A: Trend is down but overall activity is always higher in the summer.

Q: Is there data to show that gang members fall away from gang activity as they grow up to adulthood? What do they become?

A: Data comes from self-reporting when gang members go to jail. They do not want to be housed in cells with members of rival gangs.

Luisa reminded the group of the work of the Safe Street Outreach program designed to combat gang involvement.

Community Concerns – none.

Director Report

- See written report.
- Need to fill two vacancies: Board and Commissions office will send renewal notices to Luisa and she will contact members.
- Montgomery County Economic Development: Ana C. Mendez expansion – currently located on the property of Westfield Wheaton with a satellite campus in DC. Needs additional classroom space. Looking in Montgomery County and Virginia. Luisa alerted county officials, who are mounting a campaign to assist with the space search and keep the for-profit business in Montgomery County. Specifics of accreditation unknown but there are 40 full time employees and approximately 60 adjunct professors/instructors.

Committee Reports

Land Use, Transpiration, & Zoning and Quality of Life

- Planned future meetings.
- Discussed issue raised around advertisers using plastic bags filled with rocks, causing littering issue. Is anyone else in the county working on this issue?

Liaison Reports

Permitting Services – no meeting until September. Judy officially appointed to serve as liaison.



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Olney Town Center Advisory Committee – Joint meeting with GOCA. Discussed many issues related to local business, including the possible departure of the Shoppers Food Warehouse.

WUDAC –

- Andrew **Bosse (sp?)** helped define relationship between Montgomery County Department of Transportation and Maryland Department of Transportation.
- Wheaton Talking (not walking) Tour – Candidate vision for Wheaton AFTER primary. MCNPP, others to hear from community Lot 13 is not the end of Wheaton Revitalization. Meeting to plan this event, June 8 – open to public.
- Taste of Wheaton – MCCAB will share a table with WUDAC. June 3.
- Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet was well attended – 145 people. Recognized many including a high school student, first responders, and Janet Yu, owner of Hollywood East.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

- Clarence Snuggs will speak at the June meeting
- Questions will include MPDU, affordable housing, code inspections, common ownership issues
- Nancy Navarro is confirmed for July meeting and we will use the questions we've asked of other sitting council members.
- Public Meeting – 5/17/18 to discuss Purple Line rollout and closure of the Litonsville Bridge.
- Forest Estates Farmer's Market at Getty Park (Partep will send invitation)
- County Executive Candidate Forum, Tuesday, May 30 at Kensington Town Hall
- Early voting starts June 14. Absentee vote easier now, no reason needed.
- Cutoff for voter registration is June 5.
- GOCA/Olney Town Center seeking legislation to identify foreign contributors, voter protection.

Guest Speaker – Lily Qi, Economic Development Corporation

Discussed challenges facing Montgomery County, need to replace “missing middle” – middle wage/middle skill workers.

What does success look like?

Summer RISE

Need for more trade/skill education.



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In this talent-driver century, business move to skill pools.

Montgomery County currently serves two industries:

- 1) Government/government contractors
- 2) Entities that serve the local population (restaurants/retail)

Need homegrown business that grow to global entities and don't rely on local or federal spending.

Need quality hubs that are walkable with transportation nodes.

Amazon: many object over worries about traffic congestion and government incentives to a company that doesn't need them. But "HQ2" will bring any jobs paying \$100,000 or better.

Q: Comparing development in Silver Spring to development in Wheaton:

- New building to house government offices
- Georgia Avenue from Blueridge to Reedy hasn't changed much in over 46 years
- Glenmont same
- Need improvements to reach the quality of life Ms. Qi is discussing

A: Smart Growth – focus around metro stations. Not everything is within the control of the county government. Economic development takes a village. Government does the heavy lifting but needs private participation.

Q: Presentation mentioned that there are jobs that need to be filled. What are the specifics planned to bring in mid-range companies?

A: Companies can't fill jobs so businesses leave. Need career pathways training programs. Partnering with Adventist Hospital or Marriott, as examples. Need to do a lot more in this area.

Q: What about "reskilling" people whose jobs are eliminated by automation?

A: Higher education jobs could be replaced by technology. Need to respond to market needs and changes. Good to be able to bid on Amazon but need to focus on growing organic industries.

Q: The Glenmont Shopping Center has multiple owners. How can the Economic Development Corporation build a partnership with all the owners to improve the shopping center?

A: This is a long-term conversation. Need to grow local businesses and market them in Montgomery County. Land transition is complicated. Won't get involved until there is an anchor tenant/buyer/developer involved.

Q: Who is the Economic Development Corporation courting actively, other than Amazon?

A: Confidentiality is important. And she doesn't have the knowledge of leases under negotiation in downtown Bethesda. With the groundbreaking of the Purple Line there will be changes. Fox 5 is moving from DC to Bethesda. Cost of rental space is as high as \$75 per square foot.

Q: The County funds Montgomery College decently but MCPS "takes all of the oxygen out of the air." To train workers, MC needs better funding.



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A: Very political. Fairfax has more student, employs more people on a smaller budget because MD has collective bargaining and Virginia does not.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting approved at 8:53 pm.